

HB 1472 -- TEACHING OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

SPONSOR: Brattin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 5.

This bill requires any school district or charter school that provides instruction relating to the theory of evolution by natural selection to have a policy on parental notification and a mechanism for a parent to choose to remove his or her child from any part of the district's or school's instruction on evolution. The policy must require the school district or charter school to notify the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the district of the basic content of the instruction and the parent's right to remove the student from any part of the instruction. All materials used in the instruction must be made available for public inspection under the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, prior to the use of the materials in actual instruction.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that rather than trying to control how the subject is taught, the bill creates a process to allow parents to remove their children from any part of instruction on evolution.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Brattin.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.